



John "Jack" Kelly

JUN 29, 1938 - OCT 17, 2020



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John "Jack" Kelly

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Kelly, John "Jack" of Marine City, passed away on October 17, 2020.

Jack proudly served the City of Marine City, MI for 30 years. Committing himself to the community as a police officer and retiring as Chief of Police. His employment for Marine City was preceded with an enlistment in the U.S. Navy after graduation from Holy Cross High School. Upon honorable discharge, Jack earned his BA Degree at Michigan State University, where he was employed as a resident advisor, graduate assistant, assistant instructor and police officer at MSU while doing his undergraduate and graduate professional training. Jack also earned AA Degree from St. Clair County Community College and completed the State mandated Police Office Certification training at the Mid Michigan Police Academy.

Jack has been a lifelong resident of Marine City. While employed by the city, he actively participated in the community as a working member and officer of the Marine City Lions Club, the East China Township School District Scholarship Foundation and the Marine City summer festival, as well as a variety of County Criminal Justice related committees and task forces dealing with juveniles. He was an original board member of the St. Clair County Substance abuse advisory committee.

Jack is survived by his sisters Catherine L'Heureux and Gail Westrick. Nieces and Nephews; Katherine Bowran, Carl (Ramona) Peterson, Gerold (Maria) Peterson, Kelly Lesniak, Paul (Cassandra) L'Heureux, Cynthia (Aaron) Sycamore, Tracy (Paul) Peacock and Kaylyn LaLonde.

Preceded in death are his parents, Walton and Josephine (Tremper) Kelly, Sister, Mary Josephine McKendrick, Brother-in-laws Daniel McKendrick, Eugene L'Heureux and Marvin Westrick.

Private funeral arrangements will be made by Young Funeral Home, China Twp. Memorials are suggested to the Marine City Lions Club. To leave a message of comfort visit www.youngcolonial.com



Tribute Wall

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Neal Rossow posted:

I worked for Jack when I was a brand new, young police officer in MC. I worked for him from 1978-1981. He taught me a lot about "community policing" way before someone with a PhD talked about it. It created the police officer I became and carried on for the rest of my career at Port Huron PD and Flat Rock PD. He taught me how to write a police report, although a couple of drafts I got back looked like someone killed a pig on it because of all the red ink. His influence made me a "community police officer" who served more than one community, understanding the importance of the people who we protect. I also want to echo Paul (Macula) MacAlpine's comments about who Jack was. Although, the whole time I was downriver, I never saw him ride one of his beloved motorcycles. Rest in Peace my friend....you deserve it. You impacted my life and countless others in Marine City.

October 27 at 10:04 AM



Mark Miano posted:

Jack was very kind to me when my family moved to MC. As fellow grads we shared an interest in MSU sports and often discussed them at lunch. We also shared an interest in cycling and dem. politics. He once helped my teenaged daughter out of a jam and we appreciate it. She grew up to be a police office employee! Sorry you can't vote in this election.!

October 27 at 7:08 AM



Matthew Beckett posted:

Knew Mr Kelly from growing up in Marine City he knew my whole family....he was always a good guy to be around and my fondest memories of him are at PePes....where he could be found often sitting at the counter reading the paper and talking with Ray....you will be missed by many Jack RIP Chief Kelly

October 25 at 2:37 PM



Sarah Blackstock posted:

I havent seen you in years but think of you often. I will always remember you and the friendship you had with my parents. You always knew what I was doing before I ever did it.. Thank you for helping us kids of the 80's stay on the straight and narrow. There was always a little voice inside of us reminding us that you were always watching, and to think twice about whatever we were about to do.. I will never forget the sly smile and the quick wink when you came over for a visit.... Peace to your family Sarah (Arnold) Blackstock

October 21 at 6:16 AM



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Judy Tockell posted:

Sorry to hear jack passing I know it was for th best I wish I would have visited once more. He was so good about visiting Steve when he was sick m prays r with you Judy stockwell

October 21 at 3:21 AM



Pamela Wall posted:

Jack was definitely one of a kind. He was compassionate and caring. He loved Marine City and served it well. I knew if he pulled in my driveway on that Moto Guzzi, I was in for a night of great stories and laughs. Such a special person. RIP Dear Jack.

October 19 at 12:04 PM



Charlene K Kenny posted:

When my brother passed away he owned a very extensive gun collection. My parents needed money to bury him so decided they would sell the guns. Jack came to the house and went through the collection and told them what they were worth so no one would take advantage of an elderly couple. What a kind man he was. R.I.P. Jack Kelly

October 19 at 8:13 AM



Dennis Van Slambrouck posted:

Good friends at Holy Cross High School, class of '56. Lots of pleasant memories. RIP , JackDennis Van Slambrouck

October 18 at 3:57 PM



Kaylyn Westrick October 19 at 4:26 AM

On the behalf of his sisters and family. Thank you.



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John T Hoagland posted:

Got word of Jack's passing earlier today While I haven't seen him for some years, I have fond memories My best memory is simply his wry humor, and a twinkle in his eye Miss you Jack JT (Chip) Hoagland

October 18 at 3:34 PM



Kaylyn Westrick October 19 at 4:27 AM

Thank you Chip. He was an amazing man



Mary Shavinski posted:

Many laughs, always helpful, a great guy...rest in peace Chief

October 18 at 3:23 PM



Paul Mcalpine lit a candle in honor of John.



I worked with and for Jack Kelly for over 30 years. He was an truly an anomaly as a Police Officer, Sergeant and Chief. He always had his finger on the pulse of Marine City and St Clair County. I have never seen such a dedicated public servant! I have many, many fond memories over the years both on and off the job for which there is no room on this page. I'll share a story early on in my career. Jack and I were working one night and were called to a man with a gun attempting suicide. We found the person setting in his car with a shotgun stuffed under his chin. Jack knew this person and stuck his head inside the car and talked the guy out! Know that he always had Marine City and his employees best interests at heart whatever the cost! I hope now he can enjoy his retirement with a celestial ride on a bright blue shiny BMW! You will be be sorely missed, say hey to the gang upstairs. RIP my friend!

October 18 at 1:58 PM



Kaylyn Westrick October 19 at 4:30 AM

Thank you for sharing this beautiful memory. His heart truly belonged to the residents of Marine City. He was honored to serve the community.



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Pat Pfingst Henke, Charlotte, Nc posted:

I grew up with Jack - he lived on the far end of Williams Street and I lived right next to the Lutheran Church. We graduated the same year - He from Holy Cross and me from MCHS. All through our high school years, we hung out with the same crowd. 2 memories of Policeman Jack stand out. I had come home on a visit and had taken my 2 year old son down to the beach. As we were walking home on North Market Street, around the corner came the MC Police Car - pulled up at the curb and Jack came running out of the car; grab me and hugged me. My poor son started screaming - he thought I was being arrested!! Another time, the MCHS class of '56 was having a class reunion and a group of us had gone over to Bob Beattie's house on River Road to finish up the evening. During the evening, there was commotion outside and with siren and lights going, he drove into the driveway and came bursting through the front door just to say hi. Think he spent a good hour with us!! That was the Jack I knew. He was so much a part of Marine City, am sure he will be missed. Am so glad I have such wonderful memories of him.

October 18 at 11:49 AM



Kaylyn Westrick October 19 at 4:32 AM

On the behalf of his sisters. Thank you for the special memory. Uncle Jack had a heart of gold



Diana Kade posted:

Jack, you have always been a true and honest friend! You served the City well, and you will always, in my book, be the Chief. Coming across with your tough persona, you really had a soft and compassionate heart. Will forever miss you. Robert and Diana Kade

October 18 at 10:02 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Kelly family.



October 18 at 9:47 AM



Dave Scheel posted:

Jack, you are a unique human being who served your country and city for all your adult life. Thanks for your service and may you ride into the hereafter on one of those classic motorcycles. God Bless!

October 18 at 9:40 AM



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Monika Mcalpine posted:

He was a mentor and role model and always had my back, he helped shape my young life and taught me always to be passionate about what you believe in. He loved and served his community with zealous. I hope he's up there enjoying his beloved motorcycles! My condolences to his family, He will be greatly missed.

October 18 at 9:33 AM



Kaylyn Westrick October 19 at 4:35 AM

Monica thank you. Before he passed i was reading him a book on the history of Harley Davidson.



Jillpscheel posted:

Farwell to our good friend Jack Kelly. Ever since we moved to Marine City over 40 years ago, Jack was helpful and became a good friend to our family. Rest in Peace Jack. He sure loved Marine City.Dave and Jill Scheel

October 18 at 9:30 AM



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Janet Demist lit a candle in honor of John.

Mr. Jack ...Quite a fella'always a pillar for Marine CityMinced no words but fair to the bone . Will be thought of with smiles . Sincere Sympathy to Jack's family. In the line of duties of Heavenly stairs. Rest in Peace !!



October 18 at 9:07 AM



William G Humphrey October 21 at 6:17 AM

Jack will forever be remembered by many I am sure. In my world I will always remember his great wit and always being in a great mood. We had many a great discussion and he was obviously well read. I will treasure all the times we shared at "Potters" house and the many MSU home football games we attended together not to mention the many Sunday breakfasts at Coral Gables. God Bless, JackBill



Jeffrey Hendrick October 19 at 7:52 AM

My thoughts and prayers to the Kelly Family for the loss of Jack. We sometimes disagreed on things but you always had my respect. Your work for the betterment of Marine City is unchallenged. You told me one time Marine City was the Peach of the river district and thanks to your efforts and leadership that is correct



Cindy October 19 at 7:29 AM

My condolences to Jack's family and friends...He called me Sydney, I called him Kelly. He watched over me in my younger years, he tried to do it nonchalantly but I knew... thankful he cared. He was a good man as well as an officer, chief of police & sergeant. Thankful for his service to our country and my hometown of Marine City. I'll always remember his smirk of a smile and his, unique to him, sense of humor. I'll always remember him fondly. Rest in peace Kelly!Cindy (Griffin) McCollister



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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